



### **Chris Danou's Capitol Report**

#### **Assembly Resolution 14 Protects Taxpayers and Holds the Governor Accountable**

Even though the Governor ended his official quest for the White House after just 71 days, there are still some questions that remain. Will the Governor work to fulfill campaign promises that got put on hold when he announced he was running for President? Who paid for the travel and security detail over the course of his short-lived campaign? Will the Governor make Wisconsin and the people all over the state his number one priority? These are all fair questions to ask and the taxpayers deserve an answer, especially when it comes to the matter of responsibility and fiscal accountability.

It's pretty common for people to ask me questions about state and national politics when I'm out in the community. This past summer, I had people stop me at the grocery store, community events and parades who asked me who was paying for the Governor's travels while he was campaigning. While a direct answer remains unclear, my Democratic colleagues and I offered a resolution to help settle this issue. Unfortunately, the Republican majority didn't agree with us.

Last week, the State Assembly convened for the first time since the Governor ended his presidential run. In an effort to initiate an open, public and transparent conversation about this, Assistant Minority Leader Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) introduced Assembly Resolution 14. The resolution required the "Committee on Assembly Organization to hold an executive session before October 1, 2015, for the purpose of recommending adoption of an assembly resolution to require Governor Scott Walker and Scott Walker, Inc., to reimburse the state for all out-of-state travel and security costs relating to his candidacy for president of the United States." It's not only timely, but it's also very straightforward and holds the Governor accountable to Wisconsin taxpayers.

If the Governor used taxpayer money to fund his travel and security detail while campaigning for President, I firmly believe that those expenses should be paid back to the taxpayers of the State of Wisconsin. After all, we didn't elect our Governor to use the office as a stepping stone for a higher office at our expense. I also believe AR 14 is an example of good government that holds elected officials accountable. I'd be willing to bet most people agree that taxpayers across Wisconsin shouldn't fund our Governor's personal ambitions for higher office. Now that he's out of the race, back in Wisconsin and hopefully working hard for us, I believe he should also pay back any debt he owes the taxpayers. AR 14 gets the conversation started so we can find a solution to this matter. This seems like a reasonable course of action, right?

Unfortunately, AR 14 failed 57-35 along party lines with all Republicans voting against the resolution and all Democrats voting for it. There is nothing partisan about clean, open and transparent government that holds elected officials accountable and protects tax dollars. It's too bad that the Republican majority in the Assembly made this issue into a partisan one and put politics over people.

